

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224773

EXDIS

TOPOL 36

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM CONCERN OVER SITUATION ON CAIRO-SUEZ
ROAD

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO PEKING CAIRO TEL AVIV
FROM USUN NEW YORK 13 NOV 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I

A L USUN 4708

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR UN XF

SUBJ: WALDHEIM CONCERN OVER SITUATION ON CIARO-SUEZ ROAD

SUMMARY: SYG CALLED URGENTLY TO REPORT THAT MEETING
BETWEEN DAYAN AND SIILASVUO TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF
CHECKPOINT AT KM 119 WAS ROUGH AND UNSJCCESFUL. UPSHOT
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WAS THAT DAYAN REQUESTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY
UNEF FORCES FROM JM 119 AND THAT IF NECESSARY ISRAELIS

WOULD REMOVE THEM BY FORCE. SYG APPEALED FOR IMMEDIATE

USG ACTION TO PERSUADE ISRAELI'S THAT THEIR POSITION CONTRARY TO FIRST SENTENCE POINT E OF AGREEMENT AND PREVENTS UNEF FROM CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS. IN MEAN-TIME HE TEMPORARILY WITHDREW FORCES UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED AT POLITICAL LEVEL. HOWEVER HE EXPECTS STRONG ADVERSE REACTION FROM EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS TO THIS ACTION.

1. WHILE SCALI WAS MEETING WITH MALIK AND SYG CALLED URGENTLY, BENNETT TOOK CALL. SYG DESCRIBED SITUATION ON CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD AS VERY SERIOUS, VERY URGENT, MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FOR GENERAL SIILASVUO, CALLING FROM ISRAEL WHERE HE HAD GONE ON WALDHEIM'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CONFER WITH DAYAN.

2. DAYAN-SIILASVUO MEETING WAS A ROUGH ONE, ACCORDING TO SYG. HE DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS "STRONG." DAYAN HAD TOLD SIILASVUO UNEF WAS NOT GOING TO FORCE HIM TO DO ANYTHING HE THOUGHT WRONG FROM ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW. SIILASVUO HAD REPLIED IN LIKE TONE, THAT DAYAN WAS NOT GOING TO FORCE HIM AND UNEF TO TAKE WRONG ACTIONS OR TO KEEP THEM FROM DOING THEIR ASSIGNED DUTY.

3. DAYAN AND SIILASVUO WERE ABLE TO SETTLE SOME POINTS AT ISSUE BUT NOT THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF KILOMETER 119. DAYAN ASSERTED ISRAELIS DO NOT INTERPRET AGREEMENT TO MEAN THAT THE UN IS TO REPLACE ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS ON CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD. WALDHEIM COMMENTED HE BELIEVES ANY REASONABLE OAN WOULD INTERPRET FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 5 TO MEAN EXACTLY THAT. COMMENT: THIS WAS SYG'S QUOTE OF DAYAN. DISPUTE MAY ACUTALLY TINGE ON WHO IS TO CONTROL ROAD.

4. DAYAN TOOK POSITION ISRAELIS ACCEPT UN CHECKPOINT AT KILOMETER 101 SINCE THAT IS THE LIMIT OF THEIR ZONE. HOWEVER, KILOMETER 119, HE SAID, IS IN MIDDLE OF ISRAELI ZONE AND CHECKPOINT THERE COULD BLOCK ISRAELI SUPPLY OF THEIR FORCES. DAYAN ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY
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UNEF FORCES FROM KILOMETER 119 (FINNISH CONTINGENT HAD SPENT WHOLE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 12-13 THERE). DAYAN WENT ON TO STATE THAT, IF SIILASVUO DID NOT WITHDRAW HIS MEN, ISRAELIS WOULD REMOVE THE MEN BY FORCE.

5. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD ASKED EIILASVUO FOR HIS RECOM-MENDATIONS. SIILASVUO HAD SAID THAT RELUCTANTLY HE WOULD PREFER TO WITHDRAW FROM KILOMETER 119 RATHER THAN TO HAVE A DISPLAY OF FORCE WHICH MIGHT END IN SHOOTING OR OTHER VIOLENCE. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD THEREFORE INSTRUCTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW UNEF FROM KILOMETER 119, MAKING CLEAR THAT WITHDRAWAL IS TEMPORARY AND THAT UNEF EXPECTS TO RETURN. POINT WOULD BE MADE THAT THIS IS

NOT A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY MILITARY DECISION BUT BY
POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD MADE THIS
CONCESSION IN THE INTERESTS OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE
RECALLED HIS CONVERSATION WITH SCALI YESTERDAY AND SAID HE
CONTINUED IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN AT THIS
STAGE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH COULD DESTROY THE AGREEMENT.

6. AT MIDDAY PRESS BRIEFING HERE UN SPOKESMAN WILL, IF
HE HAS TO COMMENT ON SITUATION, STRESS THAT UNEF WITHDRAWAL
IS TEMPORARY WHILE THE DIPLOMATS IRON OUT THE SITUATION.

7. WALDHEIM SAID THAT UNEF WOULD HAVE NO THOUGHT OF
TAKING ANY ACTION TO BLOCK ISRAELI FORCES FROM SUPPLYING
THEIR OWN TROOPS. IF NECESSARY, MATTERS COULD BE ARRANGED
WITH UN CHECKPOINT ON ONE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND ISRAELI
CHECKPOINT ON THE OTHER. THIS, HOWEVER, IN HIS VIEW,
WOULD NOT BE IN LINE WITH AGRE

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